Manufacture of Illegal Mini Gas Cylinders

1017. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that illegally manufactured mini gas cylinders are freely available in the market, if so since when it has come to the notice of Government;

(b) whether Government plan to take steps to stop manufacture and supply of. such dangerous mini gas cylinders; and

(c) if so, how does Government plan to achieve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Some illegal manufacture of small LPG cylinders in Meerut by some small scale units registered with the Directorate of Industry, Meerut has come to the notice.

The Chief Controller of Explosives, Bureau of Indian Standards and State Government Authorities of Uttar Pradesh and N.C.T. Delhi have been requested to take action under relevant laws against the manufacture of illegal LPG cylinders.

Small cylinders conforming to specifications of BIS and CCOE can be used. Therefore, ban in such cases is not feasible.

Grant of NOG to PSUs for installing Petrol Pumps

1018. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioners of the State of Haryana and Punjab unnecessarily delay the matters of granting NOCs to the PSUs for installing the petrol pumps;

(b) how many applications for the grant of NOC to PSUs are pending with the District Administration in the state of Punjab and Haryana; and

(c) whether Government would issue circular to these states for granting the NOC earlies to facilitate the motoring public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Some delays have been reported in the grant of NOCs by the District Magistrates for installing the petrol pumps. The delay is largely procedural on account of the fact that NOC is granted by the office of the District Magistrate after obtaining clearance from various departments *viz.* Forest, Surface Transport, Police, Fire, Town Planning etc. in the district/State. However, in order to avoid delay the State Level Coordinators and Oil Companies follow up with the State Administration for expediting NOC.

Presently 33 applications are reportedly pending for grant of NOCs in the States of Punjab and Haryana.

Administered Price of Petroleum Products

1019. SHRI J. CHITHARANIAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are not reducing the administered prices of Petrol, Diesel and Kerosene Oil, even though the international oil prices have gone down from $16 per barrel to $11 per barrel; and

(b) whether Government have reduced, the price of Naphta and if so to what extent and why?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Pursuant to the Government decision to dismantle Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in phases", announced in September, 1997, the process of phased dismantling of APM has been initiated with effect from April 1, 1998. The prices of MS, HSD, SKO (Public Distribution System), LPG (domestic) and ATF are ad-

ministered and the price of HSD is fixed on import parity basis. The prices of other petroleum products like Naphtha, FO, LSHS, Bitumen, paraffin wax etc. have been decontrolled with effect from April 1, 1998 and oil companies are free to fix the prices on market considerations. The naphtha price has been reduced by IOC by Rs. 250/- MT w.e.f. 1st February, 1999.

Effect of Low Oil Price on New Oil Exploration Policy

1020. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether low oil prices may hit the recently announced new oil exploration policy a non starter; .

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the exploration ventures proposed to be undertaken during this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Under New Exploration Licensing Policy, 48 blocks have been offered for bidding to both private sector and public sector companies on terms which provide a level playing field to investors.

The last date for submission of bids is 18th May, 1999. It is, therefore, too early to assess the impact of low oil prices on the response to NELP.

Allocation for Petroleum Sector

1021. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the overall allocation to the petroleum sector since 1993-94;

(b) the share of exploration in the overall allocation;

(c) the share for building refining capacity during the above period; and

(d) why more resources are proposed to be spent to build refining capacities without any corresponding spending on exploration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The final allocation to the petroleum sector including the share of exploration and production and refinery including marketing is as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Petroleum Sector	Exploration & Production	Refining Sector (including Marketing)
1993-94	11089.86	8689.21	1970.93
1994-95	10952.69	7758.10	2751.34
1995-96	11744.72	6663.07	3955.97
1996-97	11302.94	6258.40	4169.86
1997-98	11559.59	5898.64	5016.06
1998-99	12381.84	5548.90	6389.11
1999-2000	12123.80 (B.E.)	6128.29	5656.27

(d) Refinery are set up primarily to meet the growing demand of Petroleum Products whereas an investment in exploration and production is for producting indigenous crude oil and natural gas. The activities are not inter-related and, therefore, investment is not in the same proportion.